

207.5 Public notice and hearing.

1. An applicant for a coal mining and reclamation permit or its renewal shall file a copy of the application for public inspection with the county recorder of each county where the mining is proposed to occur.

2. An applicant for a coal mining and reclamation permit or its renewal shall submit to the division a copy of the applicant's advertisement of the ownership, precise location, and boundaries of the land to be affected. At the time of submission the advertisement shall be placed by the applicant in a local newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the proposed mine weekly for four consecutive weeks. The division shall notify various local governmental bodies, planning agencies, sewage and water treatment authorities, and water companies where the proposed mining will take place, informing them of the operator's intention to mine a particularly described tract of land, indicating the application number and where a copy of the proposed mining and reclamation plan may be inspected. They may submit written comments within a reasonable period established by the division on the effect of the proposed operation on the environment within their area of responsibility. The comments shall immediately be transmitted to the applicant and shall be made available to the public at the same locations as the mining permit application.

3. A person having an interest which is or may be adversely affected or a federal, state, or local governmental agency may file written objections to the proposed initial or revised application for a permit for coal mining and reclamation operation with the division within sixty days after the last publication of the advertisement. The objections shall immediately be transmitted to the applicant and shall be made available to the public. If objections are filed and an informal conference requested within a reasonable time, the division shall hold an informal conference in the locality of the proposed mining operations and shall publish the date, time and location in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality at least two weeks prior to the scheduled conference date. Upon request by an interested party, the division may arrange with the applicant access to the proposed mining area for the purpose of gathering information relevant to the proceeding. An electronic or stenographic record shall be made of the conference proceeding, unless waived by all parties. The record shall be maintained and shall be accessible to the parties until final release of the applicant's performance bond. If all parties requesting the informal conference stipulate agreement prior to the conference and withdraw their request, the conference need not be held.

4. An application for a permit shall show a certificate issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in this state certifying that the applicant has a public liability insurance policy in force for that mining and reclamation operation or evidence satisfactory to the division that the applicant has an adequate self-insurance plan. The policy or self-insurance plan shall provide for personal injury and property damage protection adequate to compensate persons entitled to compensation because of damage as a result of coal mining and reclamation operations including use of explosives. The policy or self-insurance plan shall be maintained in full force and effect during the terms of the permit, any renewal and all reclamation operations.

[C81, §83.5]

C93, §207.5